

birth defects, which can cause higher infant mortality rates. So, despite the progress we are making in reducing infant mortality, evidence of the progress is not being seen equally everywhere.

To combat these disparities, the HHS Office of Minority Health, OMH, began the "A Healthy Baby Begins with You" campaign in 2007. This is a nationwide effort to raise awareness about infant mortality with an emphasis on African Americans. The goals of this campaign include reaching the college-age Black population with targeted health messages emphasizing preconception health and health care. The campaign trains college students to be health ambassadors and reaches out to historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

Based on the success of that campaign, OMH developed the Preconception Peer Educators Program, launched in 2008. This program addresses the need to emphasize preconception health as an important factor influencing outcomes for maternal and infant health. The program enlists college students as peer educators on college campuses and in communities to disseminate essential health messages that may seem irrelevant to students who are not seeking to start a family. Because more than 50 percent of pregnancies are unplanned, good preconception health is essential. This program has held trainings across the country over the past year, and there will be a national training for the PPE program this September during National Infant Mortality Awareness Month.

I also commend the work of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau at the Health Resources and Services Administration for providing national leadership on the issue of infant mortality. Their efforts provide critical insight into the Nation's progress toward ensuring quality of care, eliminating barriers and health disparities, and improving the health infrastructure and systems of care for women and children. All of these areas influence the infant mortality rate, and the work of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau will help target our resources efficiently to decrease the number of infant deaths nationwide.

Although some indications are that the U.S. infant mortality rate is decreasing, there is room for substantial improvement. In some pockets of the country, including Baltimore, Memphis, and Washington, DC, the rate is more than twice the national average, and evidence of racial disparities in this area cannot be ignored. We must continue to research the causes and contributing factors to infant mortality and to support effective education and awareness campaigns so that mothers get the prenatal care that they need to have healthy babies. I thank my colleagues who have agreed to support this resolution drawing attention to National Infant Mortality

Awareness Month in September and to support Federal efforts to decrease our national infant mortality rate.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE COLORADO TRUST

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I recognize and congratulate the Colorado Trust, as this year marks the 25th anniversary of the Trust's opening.

With the complex goal of advancing the health and well-being of all Coloradans, the Colorado Trust has strived to assure affordable, superior, and easily accessible health care to Coloradans of all ages. From its inception in 1985 the Trust has addressed a variety of community needs by giving more than \$300 million in grants to an array of individuals and groups.

By developing an understanding of the State's most difficult health care concerns, the Trust has been able to bring the many diverse voices on health care reform together to work towards a solution that improves the lives of all Coloradans. Their shared goal is to achieve access to health care for all Coloradans by 2018, and they are well on their way. Recently, to give one example, the Trust was able to bring 911 emergency medical assistance to 38 of Colorado's counties.

As a result of last year's Colorado Healthcare Affordability Act and Federal health care reform, more than 100,000 uninsured Coloradans will have coverage. But rather than simply ensuring that these Coloradans are covered, the Colorado Trust is ensuring that the care they receive is truly affordable while still top notch and accessible. The Colorado Trust serves as the exemplar to all of us, demonstrating that by working together with a strong commitment to the betterment of others, we can tackle the most complex and pressing situations.●

RECOGNIZING ARKANSAS COMMUNITIES

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize two Arkansas communities that were recently recognized for their low-cost of living and quality of life.

Kiplinger.Com named Fort Smith as the "least expensive" city for living in the United States. Also on the list was Conway, with the sixth lowest cost of living.

The rankings were determined through criteria examining relative price levels for housing, utilities, transportation, grocery items, health care and miscellaneous goods and services.

I congratulate the residents of both communities for this significant recognition. I also commend Fort Smith and Conway community leaders for their tireless efforts to build and maintain a safe, economical, and desirable place to live for local citizens. Our local leaders represent the best of our

State, and I am proud of their accomplishments.

Mr. President, I salute both Fort Smith and Conway, and I join all Arkansans to express my pride in these communities and our great State as a whole. ●

REMEMBERING ELLEN TURNER CARPENTER

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today my home State of Arkansas mourns the loss of Ellen Turner Carpenter, 93, a noted educator and community leader who helped shape Arkansas history through her work. Her life and legacy will be celebrated today during a funeral service at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Little Rock. I extend my deepest sympathies to Mrs. Carpenter's relatives and loved ones, who have lost a cherished member of their family.

Mrs. Carpenter's service to the city of Little Rock and the entire State helped inspire countless Arkansans to pursue their dreams and achieve their goals, despite the obstacles they may have faced. A staunch civil rights supporter, she encouraged students to work hard and always strive for the best.

Mrs. Carpenter was born July 30, 1916, in Little Rock as the youngest of eight children. She graduated from Dunbar High School in 1934 and married Rueben Alvin Carpenter in 1935. They had 10 children.

She received a bachelor's degree in education from Philander Smith College in the early 1950s and was a special education teacher for decades, beginning at Booker T. Washington Elementary School in Little Rock. She later received her master's degree from the University of Central Arkansas.

A lifelong member of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Little Rock, Mrs. Carpenter was proud of her faith and heritage. Her Christian principles guided her service and work for others.

She was most known for her role in the preservation of the Mosaic Temples of America headquarters building. In 1992, she became president of the Mosaic Temples Building Preservation Society, which worked to preserve the Mosaic Temples building in Little Rock to create a museum for black history in Arkansas. Today, the museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving, interpreting, and celebrating African-American history, culture and community in Arkansas from 1870 to the present. Mrs. Carpenter served as president of the society until her death and was also appointed by former Governor Mike Huckabee to the advisory board, where she served as chairman.

In 1975, Mrs. Carpenter founded the Meadowbrook Neighborhood Association of South Little Rock and served as its president until 2005.

Mrs. Carpenter's legacy will live on through the Ellen T. Carpenter Scholarship Fund at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, in addition to a State scholarship created in 2008 in her honor. She